

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Action/Discussion Item:

702 KAR 7:125, Pupil attendance (Final)

Applicable Statute or Regulation:

KRS 156.070, 156.160, 157.320, 158.060, 158.070

Action Question:

Should the Kentucky Board of Education give final approval to 702 KAR 7:125?

History/Background:

Existing Policy. The above listed statutes authorize the Kentucky Department of Education to administer attendance regulations to Kentucky's local school districts. The attendance regulation also defines entry and withdrawal codes. In addition, the demographic data captured at the time of enrollment includes the race of the student.

Since 2006-07, attendance has been reported as the percent of the day the student is present based on the actual minutes the student is present compared to the minutes in the school day. If a student is absent 60 minutes or less for the day, the period of non-attendance is recorded as a tardy and the student is counted present for the whole day.

The codes for entry and withdrawal have evolved over the years to better track a student's enrollment status. Currently, there is no code to indicate that a student has graduated.

Part of the demographic data captured for each student is race. The race codes are based on federal guidelines to facilitate the reporting of data to the United States Education Department (USED) required of the KDE.

Policy Issues/Options:

Proposed changes to the regulation include:

- More current terminology and clarified definitions are reflected for clarity.
- Daily attendance – The proposed change in the daily attendance calculated for a student will assign a tardy for any absence less than 35% of the school day, and a half-day absence for any absence that is at least 35% of the school day but at most

84% of the school day. Any absence greater than 84% of the school day is counted as a whole day.

- Enrollment codes – The proposed change in the enrollment codes adds new codes for graduation that indicate the number of years in high school needed by the student to fulfill the graduation requirement. This includes a code for early graduation as well as a code for students who take longer than the usual four year period. Also included is a code to identify students who were expected to enroll in a district on the first day but did not show up.
- Ethnicity and Race Codes – The proposed change is a result of changes promulgated by the federal government. Ethnicity is determined as either Hispanic or Not Hispanic. Then, the race of the student is identified by selection of at least one of the seven race codes provided in the federal guidelines.
- The language dealing with school calendar requirements has been deleted and moved to a separate regulation.

Staff Recommendation(s) and Rationale(s):

Staff recommends final approval of 702 KAR 7:125 in order to update guidance to local districts. Superintendents have requested the change in the daily attendance calculation as a means to increase the final ADA count at the local district level.

The addition of graduation codes will streamline the calculation of yearly graduation rates. The graduation rate is a component of the No Child Left Behind report.

The ethnicity and race code changes are necessary to comply with federal reporting requirements.

Impact on Getting to Proficiency:

Revising 702 KAR 7:125 should result in clearer guidance to local districts in the area of attendance reporting. This should support our efforts to reach proficiency by 2014 by making this process less time consuming and reducing errors.

Groups Consulted and Brief Summary of Responses:

The proposed changes have been presented to the Kentucky Directors of Pupil Personnel Board of Directors. The KDPP board is supportive of the changes. It is the position of the KDPP that although the use of the exact percentage of the day is much easier to explain to parents and court officials when dealing with truancy issues, the whole day/half day attendance model is more realistic for funding purposes.

The Local Superintendents Advisory Council will provide input prior to the June meeting.

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Date:

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